

THE DIAL



A Monthly Index of Current Literature

PUBLISHED BY
JANSEN, McCLURG & CO.

CHICAGO, SEPTEMBER, 1881.

[Vol. II, No. 17.]
\$1 PER YEAR—10c. PER NO.

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M. TAINE AS AN HISTORIAN.*

The title of M. Taine's work describes accurately its scope and character. It is not a history, although he speaks of himself as an historian, but a dissertation. His task is to analyze the several elements out of which contemporary France has been developed. The first of these elements was the Ancient Régime—society and government before the Revolution; this was treated in an analytic and descriptive manner, as befitted the subject. The second element is the Revolution, the great and sudden changes which this society experienced in the course of a very few years. If the first element was a state of society stationary, or nearly so, the second is a movement of society, rapid and violent.

*THE ORIGINS OF CONTEMPORARY FRANCE: THE FRENCH REVOLUTION. By Hippolyte Adolphe Taine, D.C.L. Oxon., author of "A History of English Literature," "Notes on England," etc. Translated by John Durand. Vols. I and II. New York: Henry Holt & Company.

This subject, therefore, is not capable of the purely analytic method of the first, but must be treated historically; not description, but narration, must preponderate.

Nevertheless the reader must constantly bear in mind that the object of the author is not to write a history of the French Revolution as a great event, but to describe and analyze it as one of the elements out of which the France of the present day has been developed. The chronological order is necessarily followed, and the successive books depict the successive steps in the great movement; but the method is throughout that of the disquisition, and the tone and spirit are philosophical rather than narrative.

There result from this two characteristics, which are proper enough from the point of view of the writer, but at which the reader is disposed to take exception. In the first place, the story is not told in a direct and straightforward manner, but is brought in as it were incidentally to illustrate the theories presented. It is very hard to trace the succession of events, scattered as these are in different chapters; it is even harder to tell when an event happened, because the dates are few and imperfect: even the table of contents is of very little assistance. We cannot all be expected to have at our fingers' ends the whole history of the French Revolution; but M. Taine has little mercy for those who have not. When in reading Volume II we have had occasion to look back to some event of an earlier time, we have found it much the easier plan to look it up in another book rather than try to find it in M. Taine's first volume. After long searching we have not yet been able to discover any account of the King's flight. In the second volume we wished to look up the September massacres, but could get no help from either titles of chapters

or table of contents. At last we came to them in due course, in chapter ix: "Mob rule in time of anarchy," section v, "Common workmen—their numbers—their condition—their sentiments.—Effect of murder on the murderers—their degradation—their insensibility." This is a fair specimen of the table of contents. Everything is refined down to theories and ideas, and concrete facts are left to take care of themselves.

A second characteristic of the work is its partisan tone. With certain reservations, this is well enough from M. Taine's point of view. He has by careful study made up his mind as to the influence that the Revolution has had upon modern France, and his conclusion is that this influence was wholly bad, and inexcusably so. To the reader of the same author's "Ancient Régime" it may appear that a condition of things so rotten and oppressive as that depicted in that volume needed to be swept away, even if it must be by so violent a storm. Without justifying evil passions and carnage, it may nevertheless appear that there were good effects wrought by this event which will partly balance the horrors by which the work was accompanied. To M. Taine it seems otherwise, and his work is simply to present the case as it appears to his own mind.

And yet the effect upon the reader would be vastly greater if he had done this in a more temperate tone—if he had admitted the possibility of some good motives on the one side, and of some wrongs and outrages on the other. Any fair-minded reader of these volumes will say at once: "Now let me see the other side." The true historian, even if he takes sides, will never give occasion for this. As an excellent illustration of this one-sidedness, let anyone read the account of the disturbances at Nismes in 1790 (Vol. I, p. 250), and then turn to Michelet's account of the same event ("Révolution Française," Vol. II, p. 116). No doubt both are correct in all their details; but according to M. Taine the fault was all with the Protestants—according to Michelet it was a conspiracy of the Catholics. Or read Erockmann and Chatrian's "Outbreak of the Great French Revolution," for a piece of fiction that carries the weight of history with it. M. Taine's volumes are crowded with horrors and outrages committed by the revolutionists even before the Terror. They

are fearful enough; but turn to his own account of the misgovernment and abuses of the Ancient Régime, and it will appear that there were abuses on the other side, too.

The second volume consists of one book, "The Jacobin Conquest." The author had expected to finish the work in this volume, but is obliged to reserve the Revolutionary Government for a third volume. The remarks that we have made in deprecation of his one-sidedness apply, we must confess, principally to the first volume. The Jacobin conquest is analyzed and narrated in a masterly manner, and few would undertake to defend or extenuate the conduct of the revolutionists after the summer of 1793. At this time the balance had fairly turned, and revolution was triumphant. In judging events, however, there are two points of view that the historian should keep distinct. Motives—the right and wrong of actions—he is not able to see, but can only infer. The revolutionary leaders asserted for themselves the most absolute purity and disinterestedness; their claim was that the end (the salvation of society) justified the means (murder). From whom did they learn this principle of action but from the church and the state which had held them in subjection so many generations? The massacre of St. Bartholomew, the dragonnades of Louis XIV, the arbitrary imprisonments and punishments of the old régime: these were the models that Danton, Murat, and Robespierre took—and they did not improve upon their models.

Motives, therefore, are a dangerous subject to meddle with; the other point of view is that of cause and effect, and to trace these is the true task of the historian. It is the great merit of the second volume that the causes and method of the Jacobin conquest are developed with such clearness and accuracy. But the analysis of cause and effect is not carried far enough. We need to be told not only what Jacobinism is, and how and why it got the upper hand in France, but why, when it got the upper hand, it instituted a reign of terror. "Jacobinism," as M. Taine defines it in the first chapter of this volume, is not a phenomenon peculiar to France, but has made its appearance in every revolution—in every popular movement; but only this once has its history been written in blood. Precisely the same succession of parties exercised control in the great English revolution of the seven-

teenth century as that which appears in this volume. Hyde and Falkland correspond to Mirabeau and Lafayette; Pym and Hampden to the Girondists; Cromwell and the Fifth Monarchy men to Robespierre and his crew. Indeed, one can trace in American history, in a mild form, every characteristic and almost every doctrine described in the chapter in question; the mastery of society which French Jacobinism achieved in three years occupied more than ten in England, and more than two generations in the peaceful developments of American politics. To answer the question why the French revolution was attended with a reign of terror, from which the English and American revolutions were free, would require a volume; but does not M. Taine partly answer it himself in his "Ancient Régime"?

W. F. ALLEN.

LINCOLN, STANTON, AND MCCLELLAN.*

Fault-finding is easy and popular. The critic pleases everybody, with the unimportant exception of the persons criticised, and they are always the minority. Thersites goes wrong only when he makes his audience itself his subject. Dispraise of a few is of itself a kind of praise of the many. Besides this, each of the few criticised often finds, in the blame thrown upon the other victims, a large measure of consolation for his own smarts. Of all these truisms this book furnishes an illustration.

The papers composing the volume are six: "Gen. McClellan's plans for the campaign of 1862, and the alleged interference of the Government with them," by John C. Ropes; "The siege of Yorktown," by Gen. J. C. Palfrey; "Between the fall of Yorktown and the beginning of the seven-days battles," "The Seven-days battles," "Malvern Hill," by Gen. F. N. Palfrey; "The Peninsular campaign," by Gen. C. A. Whittier.

Most of these writers took an active part in the operations criticised. Each gives his own opinions untrammelled by any call to conform to the opinions of the others or of the Society. They are men of experience, ability, and patriotism, and the utmost apparent fairness

of intention. The results are variety in unity, and so many hard hits at so many people that every reader, whatever his predilections, can find some choice morsels to enjoy.

In the first essay Mr. Ropes refers to Swinton's well-known opinion regarding "the peculiar difficulties of an army commander under a popular government; the necessity of his recognizing the need of a perfect understanding with his political superiors; his being something, at any rate, of a statesman; of the folly of his not accepting the situation heartily and making the most of it." This gives the key for all the enigmas of our first campaigns. Put into plain English, Mr. Swinton's saying means: "It is wise to keep a sharp look-out on the enemy in your front, and a much sharper look-out on the friends in your rear. It is from the latter you may expect your greatest danger." While fighting those first campaigns the Nation had not learned singleness of purpose nor attained to the patience of war. Bull Run was not fought to overcome the foe, but to escape from the New York Tribune. McClellan's plans (whether wise or foolish) were meddled with for the benefit, not of our cause, but of our political generals.

The safest and surest way to rescue a drowning man is to seize him after he is nearly gone and can lie supine in the hands of his would-be preserver. So the soldier, wise enough or lucky enough to postpone taking command until his country's cause is desperate (especially if his country be strong, free, foolish and clamorous), may escape the hard fate sure to befall any man who comes to office at the start and gets the first hard knocks from front and rear. It was only Lee's Gettysburg campaign that made Grant's Petersburg campaign possible. Nobody thinks that the Wilderness, Cold Harbor and James River operations of 1863-4 would have been tolerated in 1862, no matter who might be in command.

The ease with which fault can be found (and justly, too,) *nunc pro tunc*, long after the events recorded, may be illustrated by some extracts. Mr. Ropes says (p. 18):

"There can be no doubt that the Government had behaved towards Gen. McClellan, for some months before the campaign opened, in a manner * * * alike unjust to him, injurious to the morale of his army, and detrimental to the success of our arms.

*THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN OF GENERAL MCCLELLAN IN 1862. Papers read before the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts in 1876, 1877, 1878, and 1880. Printed by the Society. Vol. I. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co.

Few men at the head of affairs during a great war have ever given such evidence of entire unfitness to have any general direction over military men as Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Stanton. * * * We find Mr. Lincoln ordering a general forward movement on Washington's birthday, and issuing it without consultation with Gen. McClellan, who commanded all the armies of the U. S. Surely a more peevish piece of impatience and a more discreditable mode of showing want of confidence can hardly be conceived of. Of course this order was not carried out. * * * Again, on March 31, 1862, the President, after having given assurances to the contrary, withdrew Blenker's division from McClellan's army, yielding to what he called 'pressure,' and sent it to Fremont, whose political claims the President, it seems, thought should be acknowledged by giving him a respectable show in the coming campaign. * * * In the order which directs the army * * * to make a forward movement on Washington's birthday, we find the following instructive sentence: 'That all other forces, both land and naval, with their respective commanders, obey existing orders for the time, and be ready to obey additional orders when duly given!' What ridiculous rubbish is this! * * *

This is trenchant and plain-spoken blame. Now let us see what Gen. F. W. Palfrey says in the same vituperative vein regarding Gen. McClellan's conduct:

"I have said enough to show that I regard McClellan as a failure. He was not only a disappointment, but his 'tall talk' made him an aggravating disappointment. If the grave and taciturn Thomas had been beaten by Hood at Nashville, our feelings toward him would have been much kinder than they are toward McClellan after all his talk about his perfect readiness to take Richmond, of dying with his army, etc., and his inadequate performance of his part, even in a defensive battle; and his almost invariable absence from the battle-field."

The book describes in minute detail much of that interesting period, and should be generally read, especially by all who took part in the operations. The essays are of very even interest, except that the second devotes an unnecessary quantity of space to proving that the navy could not probably have given efficient help at Yorktown. The essay by Gen. Whittier seems convincing—almost conclusive—in the whole controversy.

One reading nothing but these variform yet homogeneous views and narratives would be likely to come to the same conclusions regarding the matters treated of that would result from reading everything that has been written on the subject, and the conclusions of such a reader would probably be identical with the final verdict of history. What is to be that verdict? It may be guessed at as fol-

lows: That McClellan's plan was the best possible; that the plan was inexcusably thwarted by Federal authority, and that a military genius in McClellan's place would have forced victory from the jaws of disaster in spite of this malign political interference. Most of those who made the First Peninsular Campaign believe that if it had been unopposed, except by the rebels, Richmond would have been taken and Washington kept unharmed; and they believe also that that army, if it had had a Napoleon at its head, would have succeeded in the face of *all* opposition of friend or foe.

McClellan's water-route carried him past the enemies' right flank and completely turned their strongest defensive positions. These operations were in pursuance of a plan; and any meritorious plan, wherein advantage of position is striven for, is good and merciful compared with a mere "attrition of superior numbers," where the attacking party lavishes human life because he has the bigger army and lots of men to spare. The former is war, which is an art; the latter is slaughter, which is savagery.

JOSEPH KIRKLAND.

RECENT TRAVELS IN AFRICA.*

Within the eighteen years which have elapsed since slavery was abolished in our own country, more has been learned of Africa by the civilized world than was ever previously known. Between 1768, when Bruce, the pioneer African traveller, explored the Blue Nile and Abyssinia, and 1861, when Sir Samuel Baker discovered the Albert Nyanza, we have the published records of numerous journeys of African exploration, undertaken by individuals or by organized expeditions. Among these may be found the names of such distinguished explorers or travellers as Mungo Park, whose first journey, in 1795, was from the west coast up the Gambia to Timbuctoo; Major Laing, in 1826, who penetrated from Tripoli to

*SEVEN YEARS IN SOUTH AFRICA. By Dr. Emil Holub. Translated by Ellen E. Frewer. 2 Vols. Maps and Illustrations. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

HOW I CROSSED AFRICA. By Major Serpa Pinto. Translated from author's manuscript by Alfred Elwes. 2 Vols. Maps and Illustrations. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

TO THE CENTRAL AFRICAN LAKES AND BACK. The narrative of the Royal Geographical Society's East African Expedition in 1878-80. By Joseph Thomson, F.R.S.G. Portraits and Maps. 2 Vols. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

Timbuctoo; Barth, in 1849, who from Tripoli pushed as far south as Lake Tchad; Du Chaillu, who explored the Gaboon Country; Livingstone, who traversed the Makololo Country in 1849, and discovered Lake Nyassa and the Shire Valley in 1858; Burton and Speke, in 1857-9, who discovered Lake Tanganyika; and Speke and Grant, who in 1859 discovered the Victoria Nyanza. But important as have been the contributions of these travellers to our knowledge of "the Dark Continent," they are not to be compared with the extent and value of the discoveries which have been made since, in 1866, Livingstone made known the existence of lakes Bangweolo and Moero. With the results of exploration before us which have been accomplished by Schweinfurth, Southworth, Stanley, Gordon and Long, Cameron, Holub, Pinto and Thomson, and with the further discoveries which will be made by the various individual and national expeditions which, to the number of about thirty, are now at work in Africa, the old practice when

"Geographers in Afric maps
With savage pictures filled their gape,
And over uninhabitable downs
Placed elephants for want of towns,"

will have to be abandoned. Along many lines of travel by which intrepid explorers are penetrating from every direction into the interior, light is pouring in so fast that the Dark Continent will soon stand fully revealed to the view of the civilized world: Maps of Africa, to be correct and full in representing the discoveries and corrections made by latest explorations, will need to be issued, like the market or weather reports, every day.

It is a fact quite unique in the history of geographical literature, that three such valuable books of African travel as those whose titles are placed at the head of this article should all have been published within a period of a few weeks. Major Pinto and Dr. Holub, the former a Portuguese explorer and the latter an Austrian, passed over, to a considerable extent, the same ground, and ground with portions of which other explorers had previously made us familiar. Major Pinto made Benguela, on the Atlantic, in latitude 13° south, his point of departure. Travelling in a southeasterly direction, he came out upon the coast of the Indian Ocean at Durban, near Port Natal, 30° south latitude. He is a most entertaining writer. His descriptions of new countries and tribes are always

fresh and vivid. By careful astronomical observations he has determined the exact position of many places; has correctly marked out the course of rivers not hitherto accurately known; and has traced the true boundary limits of countries whose boundaries had never before been determined. These are among the best results of his journey of seventeen months across South Africa. The reader will find the story of that journey charmingly told, abounding in interesting and often exciting incidents.

Dr. Holub had the desire of exploring Africa first awakened in him by reading "Livingstone's Missionary Labors." He was seized by this desire when a boy, and it was ever present with him, urging him to seek and find ways of gratifying it, which he did by landing at Port Elizabeth, in South Africa, with only a "stock of ready money amounting to just half a sovereign," but where he was soon able to secure a lucrative medical practice. With the money thus earned he made longer and longer excursions into the countries bordering the diamond fields. On the third one of these journeys he proposed to push his way northward along the Zambesi into the undiscovered regions of tropical Africa; but the loss of his powder, medicines and general outfit by an accident defeated his plans and compelled him to return. Dr. Holub gives much interesting information concerning the tribes among whom and the countries through which he travelled. He describes the present condition of the countries formerly reigned over by the Makololo, and of which our first knowledge was obtained from Livingstone. In the course of his travels he gathered a natural history collection of unequalled variety and value, and which he brought home with him in forty-nine cases.

Mr. Thomson's work is in some respects the most valuable of these contributions to modern African research. Our sympathetic interest is at the outset awakened by the fact that the early death of his commander should have placed one so young in supreme command of an expedition of great importance and beset with unknown difficulties and perils. It was as an assistant and geologist that he enlisted, under Mr. Keith Johnston, in the expedition which was fitted out by the Royal Geographical Society of London. He was just from the university, and but twenty years of age.

But he proved himself equal to all the responsibilities which were suddenly devolved upon him. He was an original explorer, striking out upon new paths, and pursuing them from the beginning of his journey almost until, on his return, he struck the well known caravan route at Unyanyemba. Crossing from Zanzibar to the coast at Dar-es-Salaam, he set forth in a southwesterly direction to the extreme northern end of Lake Nyassa. This was a route not previously known. Thence through another unexplored region he proceeded to the southern end of Lake Tanganyika, and pushed his way to the west of this lake, and within a few miles of the Lualaba river, until he was compelled to turn back by the inhospitable and savage Warua. Turning homeward, he avoided the familiar route from Ujiji, went round the southern end of the lake, and then passed through the unknown countries of Fipa, Kawendi and Mpimbwe, discovering a new and large lake east of the southern half of Tanganyika, and which he named, in honor of one of the sons of his queen, Lake Leopold. Mr. Thomson gives, in a geological map, the results of his observations as to the geological formations of all the region over which he travelled. He brought home with him over two hundred species of plants, and a collection of shells which Mr. Edgar Smith, of the British Museum, pronounced to be one of the most remarkable ever made, including two new genera and fifteen new species. As many of the shells of Tanganyika are clearly marine in their character, they seem to bear out the theory of Mr. Thomson that anterior to the carboniferous period one immense inland sea, whose waters have been gradually freshened, covered the whole lake region of Central Africa.

Assisted, perhaps, by his youthful ardor, his freshness of feeling, and his warmth of sympathy, Mr. Thomson seems to be one of the best judges of the Negro character. With all their degradation he sees much that is good in them. Many of their weaknesses and vices are such as are common to civilized society. The sway of fashion is as despotic there as here. Curiosity is as insatiable a passion among the African fair sex as it is with the Americans or Europeans. Everywhere the white man was regarded, if not with terror, yet with curious and wondering interest. The excitement grew, as, one after

another he exhibited his watch, compass, revolvers and portraits, and the climax would be reached when, turning up the sleeve of his shirt, he showed his white skin, unbrowned by exposure. Or, with another tribe, it was, as in the Zoölogical Gardens, "the feeding" that was the great attraction.

Mr. Thomson is a humorist, and he gives many entertaining illustrations of his sense of humor. His porters, whom he gives a better name than African travellers have generally given theirs, not one of whom deserted him or stole from him in his long march, often feigned sickness as an excuse for asking a day's halt. He concluded to try the efficacy of castor oil in greasing "the wheels of caravan life." Accordingly—

"Calling up the sick men, I asked in the most sympathetic tones at my command what their ailments were. They all tenderly rubbed their stomachs, with a lugubrious chorus: 'Tumba wana, tumba mbaya, sana.' ('My stomach, master, my stomach is very bad.') Smiling benignantly upon them, I told them to be of good cheer, as I would soon put them all right. Going into my tent, I brought out two large, handsome bottles of castor oil. Now mark the effect that the mere sight of that simple maternal medicine had upon these broken-down creatures. Groans were hushed. Their hands dropped from the affected part, and every one tried to look all right, though a glance of alarm passed from patient to patient, for he it understood there is nothing a native detests more than European medicines. Strange and marvellous to relate, they were all inclined to retire, cured by the very sight of the bottles. This, however, was not going to suit my purpose, so, with parental sternness, I ordered them to sit down and open their mouths. Not without difficulty I administered a large dose to each man, letting him know that if it did not prove an immediate specific the dose would be repeated next morning. There was no dancing or singing in the camp that night, though many of the men were astir."

And there was no more sickness among the porters.

Mr. Thomson encountered many dangers from wild animals and wild men. Once, mistaking a crocodile for a floating log, he came near being devoured by it. At another time a lion prowled around his tent for hours one night, but did not enter. He looked next morning to see his hair turned white, but it was not. Though often threatened, and seemingly in great peril by savages, he was never injured by them, and never took the life of one of them, nor suffered the loss of a man.

In a concluding chapter Mr. Thomson bears

pleasant testimony to the gradual decrease of the slave trade, and to the salutary and elevating influence of some of the Christian missions in Central Africa, notably the Livingstonia mission of the Free Church of Scotland, and that of the London Missionary Society. He does not think that the products of the region are sufficient to afford a profitable commerce, and hence civilization must first create commerce before commerce can aid civilization. Unlike Stanley, he does not predict a bright commercial future for Africa. Every one who reads the deeply interesting story of his travels will find his knowledge of that great continent materially enlarged, and his interest in its future greatly increased.

GEORGE C. NOYES.

TIMES OF THE FIRST NAPOLEON.*

About one hundred years ago were born the children whose mirth was broken by the French Revolution; the young men who fought the battles of the first Napoleon, watched the press for the brilliant productions of Chateaubriand, and hailed Villemain as the rising star in literature, tried to gain the level of Royer-Collard, or heralded Cousin, in philosophy, and noted the progress of Guizot and the Thierry brothers in history; and the young women who attained to some sort of rivalry with Mesdames Récamier, De Staël, Campan, and Rémusat. Just one hundred years after the birth of Claire de Vergennes, who became Madame Rémusat (1780-1821), the Appletons published a translation of her Memoirs; and now fresh from their press we have a collection of her Letters. These volumes are evidently expected to be in demand, for they appear in cheaper forms than those before us. Among prudent and mature readers they merit popularity, and it is desirable to have them in a form deserving the name of a book. They have a permanent value, for several reasons.

They belong to a kind of literature called "original sources of history." They come from an eye-witness of events and persons.

* MEMOIRS OF MADAME DE RÉMUSAT, 1802, 1808. With preface and notes by her grandson, Paul de Rémusat, senator. Translated from the French by Mrs. Cashel Hoey and John Lillie. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

LETTERS OF MADAME DE RÉMUSAT to her husband and son, from 1804 to 1813. Edited by Paul de Rémusat. Translated from the French by Mrs. Cashel Hoey and John Lillie. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

They treat of a period in which occurred revolutions, political reforms, and reconstruction of states in Europe. The old German Empire was dissolved, and Prince Metternich thought that he gave a new turn to European destiny with more statesmanship than any contemporary manager of cabinets, and rebuilt what Napoleon had ruined. If he could have read these Memoirs, which were wisely kept from the public sixty years, there might have been one warmer paragraph in his own cool Memoirs after reading that "his abilities did not rise above the schemes of a second-rate policy," and that Napoleon said, "Metternich approaches to being a statesman — he lies very well." The Prince never overrated Napoleon's veracity. Students of history may profitably compare these two sets of memoirs concerning the epoch which made the earliest fifteen years of our century so brilliant.

Madame Rémusat was worthy of a biography, and she was the one to write it. She began with her twenty-second year of age (1802), when she became lady-in-waiting to Madame Bonaparte, afterward known as the Empress Josephine, and ended her Memoirs with the year 1808, about twenty months before she retired from court-life with the divorced Empress. Additions are made to this volume by her grandson, the editor, whose notes contain occasional corrections of her statements. Her own record is, in some sense, her story of the times. She relates facts, imparts ideas, and commends moral excellence, although she sometimes falls into the rehearsal of a scandal, the account of which is valuable merely as a red light hung out to the future eulogists of the great Napoleon, and once she mentions "petty affairs" when she ought to have written *scan. mag.* and consigned the manuscript to the secret archives of France. Yet she has left to us a volume the most of which is high-toned, pure, elegant, racy, readable. With candor she says: "I am not incapable of being mistaken. * * * I never in my life could occupy myself with the trifles of what is called the world." This frank and elevated spirit is manifest in her Letters, which show how her tastes ran to the morally noble society and to good books: how a life of Zwingli "rather inclines me to Protestantism," and how devoted she was to the best interests

of her husband and children. Her book on "The Education of Women" shows her zeal on that subject. She seems to have been the confidant and the wisest adviser of the Empress Josephine, whose faults, excellent traits, and severe trials are graphically told; and so told that, while the Empress is not canonized, the Emperor is not crowned with glory and honor.*

The chief figure in the Memoirs is the first Napoleon. The writer says: "A woman cannot be expected to relate the political life of Bonaparte. * * * I shall record what I saw, or thought I saw, and do my best to make my narrative as accurate as it is sincere. Such a woman's views of his personal, social, and palatial life, his character and conduct at home, are valuable. Her pen-portrait of him offers little contrast with that by Prince Metternich, who wrote: "Napoleon looked upon himself as a being isolated from the rest of the world, made to govern it, and to direct every one according to his own will." Where she saw good traits in him, the bad ones were so near at hand that they were forced upon her recognition. The present reviewer does not remember to have read in the most popular life of Napoleon many such sentences as these: "There was no generosity, no true greatness in him. I have never known him to admire or comprehend a fine action. * * * He employed good or evil things indifferently, accordingly as they served his purpose. * * * He almost ignored the ties of blood and the rights of nature." And yet Madame Rémusat seems to have explained his character in a philosophical way by "separating into three very distinct parts his soul, his heart, and his mind; for no one of these ever blended completely with the others." Referring to his later tyrannies, and foreseeing the personal losses which must come to herself and husband (a court-officer for years), she says: "We served Bonaparte, we even loved and admired him; and it costs me nothing to make the avowal." And again: "We must not believe that he was always ruled by insatiable passions. We [French people] be-

* The present reviewer was about to say that the Memoirs had a good index—a thing always to be eulogised in THE DIAL. But after examining it he must ask why important subjects and personal names are subordinated to such words as Birthday, Burning, Ceremony, Defeat, Weakness? A little revision would make the index a good one. The outbursts of Carlyle's temper were largely due to bad indexes, or none at all. Would he have looked for "Quarrel at St. Cloud"?

lieved that the man who reëstablished public morality, religion, and civilization, who patronized art and literature, and who undertook to reduce society to order, must have a soul capable of true greatness; and perhaps, after all, our error, which was deplorable because it served his purposes so long, proves the generosity of our sentiments rather than our imprudence."

Other eminent personages, Talleyrand among them, are sketched in the Memoirs, in which the arrest and execution of the Duc d'Enghein are charged upon Napoleon. The volume should be read along with more thoroughly historical works—say those of Thiers and Lanfrey; but it and the Letters will hold a place in literature and among sources of history. In parting with Madame Rémusat, we repeat what was said by her distinguished son, Count Charles, the philosopher and minister of state, when in youth he was reading some work of Madame de Staël: "All Honor to the Sincere." W. M. BLACKBURN.

THE CHRONICLES OF A WESTERN PIONEER.*

Mr. Walker's "Experiences of Pioneer Life in the Early Settlements and Cities of the West" form a curious and interesting work. The author was born very early in the century, and the experiences which he relates cover a wide variety of frontier life and mark the astonishing progression made by our frontier line in a single lifetime. In his early childhood this line was reached by the removal of his family from Philadelphia to a farm near Fort Pitt (now Pittsburg)—all the region west of the Alleghanies being then called "the Indian country." He was employed in the first iron and nail factory established in Pittsburg—carrying nails during the week, and making "pot-hooks" on Sundays in the Sabbath-school where he first learned to read, write, and cipher. In these early years families subsisted chiefly upon corn-bread and game. Their clothing was at first made from flax—sown, prepared, spun, and woven in the family; and afterward, when a few sheep were raised, wool was mingled in the fabric. The process of fulling flannel in those days was ingenious and amusing. The mass was well

* EXPERIENCES OF PIONEER LIFE IN THE EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND CITIES OF THE WEST. By James B. Walker. Chicago: Sumner & Co.

soaked in soap and water and laid in the centre of a clean floor, while a number of young men, bare-footed and bare-legged, seated themselves around it in a circle and proceeded to kick the fabric into a proper state of purity, the house-women meanwhile saturating it and them with additional soap and warm water. Gatherings of this kind took on something of a festive character among these pioneers, and were called "kick-ing frolics."

After a few years the family of Mr. Walker removed to the western borders of the state, near the Virginia line,—making the journey down the Ohio river on a keel-boat; but the boy soon returned to Pittsburg, where he learned the printer's trade. After a few years he again sought the frontier line, and found it at Ravenna, in the Western Reserve of Ohio, where he purchased an interest in the county newspaper. Most of Mr. Walker's subsequent life was spent in Ohio, though he lived for a time (his narrative is strangely lacking in dates) in Chicago, where he "purchased a house and lot on Wells street, where the Briggs House now stands, for \$700," and in this building he lived, printed his paper, the "Herald of the Prairies," and kept a Sabbath-school and tract depository. Some of his later years were spent at Benzonia, in the Grand Traverse region of Michigan, which place he founded, and where he endeavored, though unsuccessfully, to build up a large educational institution. He seems to have followed a great variety of professions and avocations in his lifetime—having been by turns printer, school teacher, clerk, house painter, letterer of "the kegs of taverns with such labels as *Whisky, Brandy, Gin, Wine, etc.*," bar-keeper on muster-days, editor and publisher, college professor, author, preacher, and divine, and "a senator without asking the nomination." His greatest energy, however, seems to have been displayed as a newspaper starter. "All the Presbyterian religious papers," he says, "then published in the free states of the West, had been established by myself."

Mr. Walker's narrative has, what might be easily expected in such a work, a strong flavor of his own personality; and many of his experiences and observations are recorded with a mixture of unreserve and *naïveté* which is very amusing. He deals out praise and con-

demnation with a liberal hand, and is not disposed to be over-fastidious in speaking of things which meet his disapproval. "In England it is not possible for a bishop of the Episcopal church to be a very good Christian," and "the popular ministry of our day have degenerated, and, through fear and favor, are cowards, false teachers, or dumb dogs, on the subject of the Papal superstition," are examples of his frankness of speech as well as of his religious temper. "The title D.D., being contrary to Christ's command, is of the devil," he says; and it was perhaps in return for this, and by way of a practical joke, that this title was subsequently conferred on him by his appreciative brethren. Once, while a young man, he made an unsuccessful application to Mr. Booth, in New York, for a position as supernumerary in his theatre; and in his later years he is "perfectly sure" that if his application had been successful, "meritorious aims and a virtuous life would have been abandoned." Having thus narrowly escaped being wrecked by the dangers which beset the dazzling life of a "supe," the good man is convinced from the theatrical experience then gained that, "allowing for extraordinary exceptions, such as Mrs. Siddons and Mrs. Richie, there is no virtue on the stage;" and this wholesale depravity is proved in the case of Mr. Booth by referring to him as "father of the notorious murderer recently executed." He is equally indisposed to tolerate laxity of morals in some other directions. "During a whole lifetime," he says, "I have not been many nights out of bed after ten o'clock;" and hence to this severe moralist "there is something wrong in the heart as well as the habits of those who may be called *night-birds*." Yet, like other mortals, our author appears to have had his little idiosyncrasies, and some of them are narrated with an artless candor which makes them very edifying. His ability in the grog-mixing line, in his early years, is admitted without reserve, even to an enumeration of the various beverages, "gin-slings, toddies, egg-nog, etc.," which his skill as a bar-tender enabled him to concoct "for the victims of alcohol;" and he describes with equal frankness how on one occasion, having no overcoat, he borrowed a companion's coat without his leave—a circumstance which led to "a little difficulty" with the owner, who for a long time was

"unreconciled to appear on the street in his own overcoat,"—and how "on another occasion," being at "a rendezvous called the turnpike gate, about midnight," and wishing to return home before his companions were ready, he conceived the excellent joke of taking the horse and wagon of the friend who had brought him there and driving home alone, leaving his friend to travel the three miles on foot over a mountain road and put up his horse afterward—a "freak" which he fears "occasioned language neither complimentary nor classical," and made him "not anxious to meet his friend for a day or two." These incidents illustrate the personal quality of our author's narrative, and show the peculiar sense of humor which gives the book much of its raciness. He has a marked fondness, too, for poetry, and very frequently drops into that form of expression, though seemingly aware, with Mr. Wegg, that it "comes more expensive." His grammar is not faultless, but he writes with force and fervor. One sentiment, uttered twenty years ago, has equal bearing on the labor question of to-day, and is worth repeating. Reading that Mr. Moran, president of the Erie railroad at a salary of \$25,000 per year, had issued a circular asking the workmen of the road to submit to a reduction of wages, he says: "Now it is my opinion that the man who will receive \$25,000 per year for his own services, and then, in order that he may save the company in giving him his extravagant salary, will ask men who work as hard as himself to take less than \$1 per day, is a selfish, heartless scoundrel." To which he appends the pious but seemingly needless ejaculation, "God forgive me for the denouncement."

OUTWORN MODES OF PUNISHMENT.*

Forty years ago, when Mrs. Ann Royall, first and worst of female lobbyists and interviewers, was indicted, tried and convicted in Washington on the charge of being a common scold, the district attorney did his best to have her sentenced to be ducked in a pond, in good old English style. Judge Cranch, however, imposed a light fine instead, and so the old lady escaped the ducking-stool to which

some of her sisters in the old country were consigned as late as the fore part of the present century.

Mr. Andrews relates that in 1809 one Jenny Pipes was paraded through the town of Leominster and actually ducked in the river near Kenwater Bridge, by order of the magistrates. In 1817, again, another woman, Sarah Leeke by name, was wheeled through the streets on the chair, but was not ducked, for the reason that the water was too low. All through the seventeenth century, and for an indefinite time before that, it would seem that hardly any English parish of importance regarded its establishment complete without a ducking-stool as well as a whipping-post and a pair of stocks, the latter being especially for the benefit of drunkards. Whipping-posts were about as common in England as churches, and so, indeed, they were in the American colonies, where their position was frequently in front of the meeting-house in which the citizens gathered to attend to civil as well as ecclesiastical affairs.

Mr. Andrews gives elaborate descriptions of numerous antiquated contrivances for punishment, with many illustrations, the most attractive of which, it must be confessed, are those showing the various patterns of ducking-stools, with the old woman tied to a chair at one end of a long pole and about to be soured in what the newspaper reporters would call the cooling element. The Drunkard's Cloak was a huge cask with the lower head knocked out and with a hole in the upper one through which the offender's caput was thrust, while his hands were stuck through small orifices in about the latitude of the bung-hole. Clothed in this hooped skirt he could walk around the village and be sociable with his old companions. The Brank, also called the Scold's Bridle or the Gossip's Bridle, was a contrivance of iron hoops made to rest over a woman's mouth, while confined by iron straps running to the back of her head. It was sometimes armed with a gag of sharp plates which entered the woman's mouth and lacerated her tongue if she attempted to speak. In 1824 a woman named Ann Runcorn, of Congleton, was bridled and "led through the town by one Prosper Haslam, the town clerk's clerk, accompanied by hundreds of the inhabitants; and on her return to the Town Hall the bridle was taken off in the presence of the mayor,

* PUNISHMENTS IN THE OLDEN TIME. By William Andrews. An Historical Account of the Ducking-Stool, Brank, Pillory, Stocks, Drunkard's Cloak, Whipping-Post, Riding the Stang, etc. London: W. Stewart & Co.

magistrates, constables, churchwardens, and assembled inhabitants." In the steeple of Forfar, in Scotland, there was until a few years ago preserved an old Witch's Bridle, with the gag attachment, bearing the date of 1661, in which the witches were taken out to execution. The field where they suffered is pointed out to strangers as a place of curious interest. How many witches of Forfar, thus habited, were led out to death, the account fails to state; and probably no exact record was kept, for it is to be remembered that in that age the destruction of witches attracted no particular attention anywhere except in New England.

The Pillory, or Stretch-neck, through which the head and hands of the victim were thrust, was in common use from the earliest times down to the latter part of the last century. Daniel Defoe, for writing a satire on churchmen, was pilloried three times in 1703. In 1765 Mr. Williams stood in the pillory for republishing the "North Briton" in forty-five volumes. It was last brought into requisition in 1813, for the punishment of a publican who had aided the escape of a French prisoner, and its use was finally abolished by act of parliament in 1837.

Mr. Andrews' little book shows a careful exploration of a curious and almost untrodden by-way of English history. It is a pity that he, or some one else, will not make another investigation in the same field, and give us an account of the English persecution of witches.

BRIEFS ON NEW BOOKS.

A VOLUME that deserves great popularity, and will have it wherever its scope and merit are at all understood, is "Wood-Magic: a Fable," by Mr. Richard Jefferies, a popular English writer, author of "The Game Keeper at Home," etc., and published by Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co. It is one of the most genuine and charming books of recent years. Its fresh and delicate humor, poetic treatment, and rich descriptive coloring, show the author to be possessed of a high grade of literary attainments; but something besides literary attainments are needed to produce such a work as this—in which every sentence reveals not alone the most intimate sympathy and companionship with natural objects, but a closeness and minuteness of delineation which must have come from a long period of study and observation. Those who have been accustomed, especially as children, to fancy the dumb animals communicating with each other, and have tried to imagine what they would say if possessed

of the faculty of speech, will be surprised and delighted to find how cleverly Mr. Jefferies has caught up these vague fancies and imaginings and embodied them in a narrative which, in spite of its purely ideal character, has quite the semblance of reality. But delightful as the work is as a piece of pure invention, this is not its only claim to notice. It is especially admirable as an indirect but very effective means of studying natural history. The traditional and characteristic traits of innumerable birds, field animals, plants, trees, etc., are presented with a wonderful fidelity, and with a subtlety and adroitness which makes the discourse of these dumb companions appear the most reasonable thing in the world. Sir Bevis, the hero or chief character, is simply a very natural and imaginative little boy, who wanders about his father's fields in intimate companionship with the hare, the weazel, the squirrel, the mouse, the toad, the thrush, the owl, the jackdaw, the brook, the tree, which converse with him and with each other in the most familiar fashion, and thus reveal the secrets and experiences of their various lives. Many interesting legends and histories are told, and there is no end of exciting incidents and exploits. But to attempt an analysis or minute description of this dainty, fanciful, and exquisite fairy-tale is peculiarly cold-blooded, and we commend the reader to a far more delightful source of information in the book itself.

THE two novels last issued in Osgood's "Round-Robin Series" form a decided contrast in merit. "Patty's Perversities," the older of the pair, is a queer mélange of commonplace incidents, and dull conversations seasoned with school-girl wit, which, oddly enough, the author seems to have depended upon to make up for the lack of plot. It is, in short, an uncommonly frivolous literary performance, even for a 'prentice hand.

THE other story, bearing the pretty title of "Homoselle," is, however, quite good enough to maintain the average excellence of the series. In fact, there can be little question that it is the best of the series thus far. It is grounded upon a wise choice of material, with skill and aptitude in its use, and the product is a work of real power which can be read with unflagging interest. The story is one of Virginia life under the slavery régime, the title being simply the name of the heroine, who is thus called, as explained by her aunt early in the story, in accordance with "an idiotic fashion we have here in Virginia of calling girls by family names. Homoselle's mother was of Huguenot extraction—a Miss Homoselle." She is a finely drawn and pleasing character—a most striking contrast to her aunt, Miss Despard, a triumph also in female characterization of quite another type. The chief figure of the other sex is an Englishman, with an abundance of national conceit and peculiarity, yet with a manliness of character which reveals itself clearly enough in the end. He is a well-realized conception, as is Mr. Despard, a hospitable, generous, but weak and ruined specimen of old-time Virginia gentry; and

Major Carter, an invalid, who has retired from the army to care for his health and his estate, and who has so much pride of family that he is thrown into a violent passion, at the imminent peril of his life, on hearing a "low pedagogue" pronounce his name as if he was one of the "creatures who drive carts" (the Major called it "Ke-arter"). The book is remarkable, indeed, for the uniform excellence of its characters—including the negroes, who are very important actors in the drama which for some of them results in a frightful tragedy. In making the story largely a study of the old social condition of the South, including both races—a civilization becoming more interesting sociologically as it grows more remote—the author of "Homoselle" has singularly illustrated the fitness of this material for the purposes of fiction and even of historical romance, and has shown that it has possibilities by no means exhausted by "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "A Fool's Errand."

THE author of "Cape-Cod Folks" (A. Williams & Co.) seems to have attempted not so much a character-study as a description of the peculiar life led by some very peculiar people who are supposed to inhabit that remote and almost isolated portion of the Massachusetts coast. The region is a forlorn one, and life there as portrayed by this author is dreary and commonplace; while the natives appear almost anything but captivating. Still there is a certain novelty and freshness in this material, and the author has used it with good artistic instinct and with a tolerably keen sense of humor, in the construction of a novel which many readers will find enjoyable. It is a curious fact, and one that has a certain suggestiveness for other authors who are in the habit of making character-sketches from real life, that the publication of this book has called out complaints from persons who consider themselves misrepresented and caricatured in its pages; and the publishers have thought proper to announce that one of the names will be changed in subsequent editions.

MR. BIGELOW's little work on "Punctuation, and Other Typographical Matters," published by Lee & Shepard, is worthy of being heartily commended to the classes for whom it is especially intended—authors, printers, teachers, and scholars. Mr. Bigelow's long experience as corrector at the University Press, Cambridge, and his scholarly attainments, qualify him to discuss his subject with intelligence, and to speak authoritatively on the many disputed points which it involves. He wisely recognizes the limitations of arbitrary rules, and would substitute for them, as far as possible, a clear understanding of the various functions for which marks of punctuation are employed, so that they may be used by an author to aid him in expressing his meaning with clearness and precision. No writer with any regard for his style will leave his MS. to be punctuated by another; he might as properly—as has been shrewdly observed—trust another to put in his gestures while speaking. Writers who wish to acquire a knowledge of this important art may safely trust the

teachings of Mr. Bigelow. We have never met a work on the subject with which we were in such substantial agreement. It is fully up to the most modern usage, which has changed so much in favor of a more sparing and discreet use of punctuation marks, particularly the comma, that the formal precepts given in the older grammars are largely obsolete and misleading; while it has an advantage over the valuable treatise of Mr. Wilson in its superior compactness and availability for general use. Besides its chapters on punctuation, Mr. Bigelow finds room in his little book—which is a model of neatness and orderly arrangement—for treating briefly the subject of syllabication, pointing out the erroneous methods of the dictionaries, and for some useful rules in orthography, abbreviations, accents, etc.

ON the same subject, we are glad to be able to commend also a pamphlet entitled "The Use and Abuse of Abbreviations," prepared by Mr. Henry R. Boss, an experienced and scholarly corrector for the press in Chicago. The list of abbreviations, arranged alphabetically, is very complete and may be trusted for accuracy. The pamphlet may be had for twenty-five cents by addressing Mr. Boss, at No. 232 Irving Place, Chicago.

PERHAPS the best of Appleton's "Home Books" yet issued is "The Amenities of Home," the latest of the series. It is in the main a plea for sweeter manners and nobler lives, and is so good in intention and generally so admirable in precept that it is easy to overlook a few rather injudicious passages—such as "It is the man's prerogative to decide upon religion, politics, business, social position, expenditure," etc., which introduce vexed questions manifestly out of place in such a work. Instead of obtruding such dogmatic assertions it might have been better to point out that a happy home is one in which the relative prerogatives of husband and wife are amicably and quietly settled between themselves alone. We think, too, the author makes an unwarrantably low estimate of the number of happy homes in America; though most people will admit the desirableness of a cultivation of the domestic virtue by the rising generation, and will welcome all such valuable aids as the present volume. We should add that as all the books of this excellent series, though neatly printed, are sold at the low price of sixty cents each, they should have a very extensive circulation.

MR. SULLY's treatise on "Illusions" (Appleton) opens up a very wide and interesting field, though chiefly one of speculation rather than exploration. Indeed, one realizes vividly, from reading his book, how little is really known, and how much guessed at, with reference to this subject. Speculations concerning it have been plentiful enough, and have ramified through the domains not of psychology alone, but of philosophy and theology as well; yet such discussions, while contributing liberally to the stock of prejudice and unfairness in society, have yielded but an exceedingly slight harvest of fact.

Nor have observers thus far been able to supplement this with the material which would be needed for a successful scientific treatment of the large and difficult subject of human error. Mr. Sully has endeavored to "keep to a strictly scientific treatment, that is to say, the description and classification of acknowledged errors, and the explanation of these by a reference to their psychical and physical conditions." Yet he finds himself compelled to point out the intimate relation between the psychology and the philosophy of the subject, and how one merges into the other. He presents many curious incidents of illusions of the senses regarding physical objects, etc., discusses the various phenomena of dreams and trance conditions, and renders at least the important service of pointing out the immense disproportion between what we know and what we do not know in this obscure but important field of inquiry.

DR. HENSHALL'S "Book of the Black Bass" (Robert Clarke & Co.) is a very complete and satisfactory exposition, both technical and popular, of what is now regarded as one of the finest of the game fish of this country. The first half of the book is chiefly scientific, giving a detailed description of the habits, characteristics, and varieties of the black bass, and its range—which is in general the entire country east of the Rocky Mountains. The portion of the book most interesting to lay readers is that devoted to bass-fishing, including elaborate descriptions of "tools, tackle, and implements," and many practical hints and suggestions of value to the fisherman. Dr. Henshall writes with the precision of the scientist and the enthusiasm of the successful angler, and his book is the most important of any recent American work on fishing. The volume is a large and outwardly handsome one, though the poor quality of some of the illustrations and the disagreeable blueness of the paper give it an unmerited cheapness of appearance on a closer inspection.

A PLEASANT and fitting memento of the late Professor Benjamin Peirce is furnished by Little, Brown & Co. in the volume containing his addresses on "Ideality in the Physical Sciences," which is graced by a fine portrait of the distinguished and lamented author. The lectures, six in number, were originally delivered at the Lowell Institute in Boston, and were—as stated in the preface, written by his son—his last public utterances in advocacy of "that high conception of the functions of science which he always earnestly maintained." They contain a comprehensive statement of his argument in favor of the great theory of evolution, of which he was a devoted adherent, and of his unwavering conviction of the essential harmony between the teachings of science and religion, and of the ultimate advantage which religion must derive from the movement of scientific thought. They are rich in learning and strong in logic, and are written in that impassioned and eloquent style which was characteristic of the author, who combined the seer and the philosopher with the man of science.

PROFESSOR COOKE, of the chemistry and mineralogy department of Harvard College, has collected in a small volume a series of short addresses on scientific subjects, written mainly for special occasions, to which he has given the title, "Scientific Culture, and Other Essays" (Appleton). The leading thought or object of the essays is to point out the advances which have been made in methods of scientific teaching within the experience of the writer, covering a period of thirty years, and the marked advantage of substituting, to a large extent, practical work in the laboratory or cabinet for the lectures and recitations which formerly comprised the sole method of instruction in the experimental sciences at our leading colleges. The essays are marked by ripeness of thought and a fine enthusiasm for scientific studies, tempered with the moderation and conservatism of the trained scholar. Brief memoirs of two eminent men of science—Thomas Graham and William Hallows Miller—are appended to the volume.

ONE of the latest and most important additions to Harper's popular "Franklin Square Library" is the "Song Collection," containing some two hundred pieces of music designed for use in the school and at home. It is arranged after an original method, with choice paragraphs of reading matter on nearly every page. Few persons will fail to find here their favorite songs and hymns. There are also songs and hymns for the little folks, making the collection an admirable home book for the family.

CORRESPONDENCE.

REVIEWING INDECENT BOOKS.

To the Editor of THE DIAL:

Sir:—A somewhat notorious work of fiction, recently issued in England and reprinted in this country, has been reviewed by most of the leading English literary journals which I have seen, and by all the critical journals, with one exception, published in this country. Some of these high authorities have pronounced the book clever, others desperately dull; but all have substantially agreed in condemning it as grossly indecent, while some have declared it unfit to be read or mentioned in polite society.

Why, then—the question occurs to me—should the book receive so much attention from reviewers? If it is unfit to be read, is it not also unfit to be read about so much in detail? Do not these reviews, although they formally condemn the book, really give it its circulation? Why make a laborious and exhaustive analysis of a work, dwelling upon its most objectionable and immoral features, simply to convict it of being unfit to be read, when a brief declaration to that purpose would be not only in far better taste but much more effectual? If one in polite society chances to see an indecent or disgusting object, he does not force it upon the attention of his companions, but seeks to pass it by with the least notice possible. The strongest rebuke that can be given to an objectionable book is to treat it with perfect silence; and if this course had been followed

generally by the literary journals in the case in question (as it was by *THE DIAL*, the honorable exception referred to), the work would not have sold ten copies where it has now sold an hundred. The duty of literary journals to supply their readers with literary information is of course recognized; but to devote two or three columns of space to showing that a certain book is immoral and ought not to be read—thereby doing everything possible to make it read—is, to say the least, a slightly paradoxical performance.

G. M'C.

A QUESTIONABLE PROCEEDING.

To the Editor of *THE DIAL*:

Sir:—It is a laudable indication of health in the literary taste of the American public that it rejects the sickening and sensational trash which several publishers have attempted recently to domesticate on American soil by reproducing in our language the modern blasé French novel. A Boston publisher, who has been dabbling in this sort of literature, replied a few days ago to an inquiry as to the sale of his French novels: "They do not sell at all." We have an indication nearer home that this sort of enterprise is played out. In 1880 a Chicago publisher issued a novel with this title: "The Ballet Dancer's Husband. Translated from the French of Ernest Feydeau, by Mary Neal Sherwood." In 1881 the same book, from the same plates, and the same publisher, appears (entered as a new copyright) with the title "Barberine; or, A Woman's Devotion. Adapted by Mary Neal Sherwood." The motive for making this change is so obvious that he who runs may read. The morality of the change in a business point of view is not so obvious. When such a thing has been done in New York and Philadelphia it has been called a "publisher's trick," a "fraud," etc. What it will be called in Chicago, where the trade is supposed to be immaculate as to virtue, remains to be seen.

LITERARY NOTES AND NEWS.

THE book trade, sharing in the general prosperity of the country, gives promise of uncommon activity this fall. Not all the publishers are yet prepared to make their announcements, but from the lists already sent us there are indications that the books of the fall will surpass in number and importance those of any recent season, if not of any season in the history of the trade. First in the field with a complete list are D. Appleton & Co., whose works "in press and in preparation" are as follows: "The Wit and Wisdom of Benjamin Disraeli, K.G., Earl of Beaconsfield, Collected from his Writings and Speeches;" "In the Brush; or, Old-Time Social, Political, and Religious Life in the Southwest," by Rev. Hamilton W. Pierson, D.D., ex-President of Cumberland College, Kentucky, with illustrations by W. L. Sheppard; "Florida for Tourists, Invalids, and Settlers," by George M. Barbour, with illustrations; "Volcanoes: What they Are and What they Teach," by J. W. Judd, Professor of Geology in the Royal School

of Mines, with 96 illustrations ("International Scientific Series"); "The Sun," by C. M. Young, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Astronomy in the College of New Jersey; with numerous illustrations ("International Scientific Series"); "Wild Work; the Story of the Red River Tragedy," by Mary E. Bryan, author of "Manch"; "The Bloody Chasm," a novel, by J. W. DeForest; three new volumes of "Appletons' Home Books"—"Household Hints," "Home Amusements," "Home Decoration," "Home-keeping"; "Bachelor Bluff: His Opinions, Sentiments, and Disputations"; "Ralph Waldo Emerson: Poet and Philosopher," by A. H. Guernsey (published by arrangement with Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.); "The Financial History of the United States, comprising the Period from 1789 to 1860," Volume Second, by Alfred S. Bolles; "The Elements of Economics," by Henry Dunning Macleod, M.A., Lecturer on Political Economy in the University of Cambridge; in two volumes; "The Verbalist," by Alfred Ayres, author of "The Orthoëpist"; "Saints and Sinners," (Noirs et Rouges), from the French of Victor Cherbultiez; "Field Book for Railroad Engineers," by John B. Henck, A.M.; new, revised edition; "Half Hours with Greek and Latin Authors," from various English translations, with Biographical Notices, by G. H. Jennings and W. S. Johnston; "A World of Wonders; or, Marvels in Animate and Inanimate Nature," with 322 illustrations; "Homes and Haunts of our Elder Poets," with portraits and numerous illustrations, by R. H. Stoddard, F. B. Sanborn, and H. N. Powers; "English Classics,"—a series of small volumes, elegantly printed, consisting of works in English literature acknowledged as classics, among which are—"English Odes," by E. W. Gosse, "In Memoriam," by Alfred Tennyson, "The Princess," by Alfred Tennyson, Selections from Shelley's Poems, Shakespeare's Sonnets, "Of the Imitation of Christ," by Thomas à Kempis; "Selections from Arguments, Addresses, and Miscellaneous Papers of David Dudley Field, edited by A. P. Sprague;" "Essays on the Floating Matter of the Air, in Relation to Putrefaction and Infection," by Professor John Tyndall; "The Ancient Bronze Implements, Weapons, and Ornaments of Great Britain and Ireland," by John Evans, D.C.L., LL.D., etc., with 540 illustrations; "History of the Formation of the Constitution of the United States," forming a history of the United States from the treaty of peace with Great Britain to the inauguration of Washington, by George Bancroft, in two volumes; "Clearance and Entrance of Vessels in the United States of America," by Richard Wynkoop, of the New York Custom House; and a number of new and important educational works.

DODD, MEAD & Co. announce the following for publication in the early autumn:—"A Short History of Art," by Julia B. DeForest; intended as an introductory text-book to the study of art; very fully illustrated; "Without a home," a new novel by E. P. Roe; "The Renaissance of Art in France," by Mrs. Mark Pattison; illustrated; 2 vols.; "The Cultivation of the Rose," by H. B. Ellwanger; "Life of

Isaac T. Hopper," the Anti-Slavery Quaker; a new edition of this stirring book, for many years out of print, with an introduction by John G. Whittier; "Mildred and Elsie," by the author of the Elsie Books. This house has made special preparation in the way of illustrated holiday books, which include designs by such well-known artists, among Americans, as Rosina Emmet, Dora Wheeler, Howard Pyle, Walter Satterlee, and Alfred Kappes; and among English artists, Miss Greenaway, Caldecott, Miss Casella, and others.

ROBERTS BROTHERS will issue during the fall a new and complete edition of Jean Ingelow's poems, with portrait,—also a new illustrated edition of Miss Ingelow's "Songs of Seven," for the holidays; a new book for boys, "The Two Cabin Boys," by Louis Rousselet, author of "The Constable's Son," with illustrations; and new juveniles by H. H. Mrs. Ewing, E. E. Hale, Susan Coolidge, Flora L. Shaw, and Samuel A. Drake. Their list includes also "My First Holiday, or Letters Home," sketches of a trip to Colorado and California, by Caroline H. Dall; "Massachusetts in the Woman's Suffrage Movement," by Mrs. Henrietta Robinson; new volumes of poems by Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Christina G. Rossetti, and the third edition, revised and augmented, of Hamerton's "Etcher's Handbook."

GEORGE H. ELLIS will add several notable religious books to his list this fall. Among them are "Ecce Spiritus," to be published anonymously; "A study of the Pentateuch," by Dr. R. P. Stebbins, an eminent Unitarian clergyman; and "The Way of Life," by George S. Merriam, formerly editor of the "Christian Union." Mr. Ellis will also issue new editions of Mr. Savage's works, and two volumes by Dr. Furness, "The Way of Spirit" and "The Unconscious Truth of the Four Gospels," and will place his imprint on a little monograph in ethics, "The Two Consciences." "Man's Origin and Destiny," by Prof. J. P. Lesley, state geologist of Pennsylvania, announced for last May, but delayed in press, is promised definitely in September. The fourth authorized edition in cloth and a cheap edition in paper, of Miss Cobbe's work on "The duties of Women" will also soon appear.

AMONG the important books to be published this fall by Jansen, McClurg & Co. are the Hon. E. B. Washburne's work on the early history of Illinois—"Governor Edward Coles and the Slavery Struggle of 1823-24"; a translation of the popular German fairy tales of William Hauff, to be published with the original illustrations, under the title "Tales of the Caravan, Inn, and Palace"; a volume of poems by Ella Wheeler, the popular Western poetess, containing the best portions of her previous volumes with a large number of new pieces; a Memoir of Haydn, a new volume in Dr. Nohl's series of musical biographies, translated from the German by Mr. J. J. Lalor; and "Golden Thoughts," a selection of brief and striking passages from a wide range of authors, orators, statesmen, divines, etc., prepared by the Rev. S. P. Linn, of Cincinnati; with a companion-volume

of "Golden Poems," containing an entirely new selection from the best minor poems in the language and choice extracts from longer works—the range being from Chaucer to the poets of our day.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co. make the interesting announcement that their proposed series of "American Men of Letters," which it was originally intended to issue under the editorial supervision of Mr. James T. Fields, will be commenced immediately under the supervision of Mr. Charles Dudley Warner, from whom the idea of the series emanated. The same house also announces the "American Statesmen" series, to be devoted to sketches of the lives of the earlier American statesmen, issued under the editorial supervision of Mr. John T. Morse, Jr.

ROBERT CLARKE & Co. will publish in October, "The Shakespearean Myth; or, William Shakespeare and Circumstantial Evidence," by Appleton Morgan, LL.D.; "Miami Woods, a Golden Wedding, and other Poems," by William D. Gallagher; "The Discovery of the Northwest in 1634, by John Nicolet, with a Sketch of his Life," by C. W. Butterfield; and "Thomas Corwin; a Sketch," by Addison P. Russell, author of "Library Notes," etc.

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS announce "Norsk, Lapp, and Finn," by Frank Vincent, Jr., author of "The Land of the White Elephant," etc.; "Spain and the Spaniards," by Edmundo De Amicis, author of "Studies of Paris," "Holland," etc., with new editions of the author's previous works; and new editions of many other of their most successful publications.

HENRY A. SUMNER & Co. will publish early in the season, "We, Von Ardens," by Miss Douglas, with three illustrations; "A Peculiar People," by Wm. S. Balch, author of "Ireland as it Is," etc.; and later they will issue a new book by the author of "No Gentlemen," a new edition of "Little Zee," and a complete octavo edition of Shakespeare.

LEE & SHEPARD will issue as a holiday gift-book Mrs. Browning's beautiful poem, "He Giveth His Beloved Sleep," with illustrations by Miss Humphrey, uniform with the previous volumes illustrated by the same artist, published by this house.

A COMPLETE edition of Walt Whitman's poems, carefully revised, but without omissions, will be issued this fall by J. R. Osgood & Co. It is understood that the earlier editions, the plates of which are owned by the poet, will be suppressed.

FORDS, HOWARD & HULBERT will issue in September, "Shakespeare for the Young Folk," a work on an entirely new plan, edited by Prof. Robert R. Raymond. It will be handsomely printed and profusely illustrated.

J. R. OSGOOD & Co. make the interesting announcement of a new and finely illustrated edition of Owen Meredith's "Lucile," which they will offer as a holiday gift-book.

DU CHAILLU's new book of Norse travel, "The Land of the Midnight Sun," will be published by Harper & Brothers in October.

OSCAR WILDE's poems have reached a third edition in London and a second edition in this country.

MR. JOHN H. INGRAM, the English biographer of Poe, has a paper on Chatterton nearly ready for "Harper's Magazine."

MESSRS. CASSELL, PETER, GALPIN & Co. have ready for the fall trade a long list of choice juveniles, and other seasonable and attractive works.

PHILLIPS BROOKS's volume of selections from the writings of Dean Stanley, with the title "Thoughts that Breathe," will be issued by D. Lothrop & Co.

STUDENTS of Shakespeare will be glad to learn that Mr. Howard Furness expects to resume his labors on his "Variorum Shakespeare" the coming winter.

MR. E. A. FREEMAN, the distinguished English historian, will arrive in this country early in October, and will deliver his first lecture in Boston, October 17.

THE publishers of "Wide Awake" announce an increase of price to \$2.50 per year, certainly not an unreasonable sum to ask for this large and handsome juvenile magazine.

PRINCE BISMARCK recently returned to the giver a German book printed with roman letters, explaining that such books are useless to him, as it takes "too much time to read them."

MRS. JAMES T. FIELDS has in preparation a memorial of her husband, the late James T. Fields, to be entitled "Biographical Notes and Personal Sketches of James T. Fields."

THE series of articles on the "Vicksburg Campaign," now appearing in the Cincinnati "Gazette," written by Samuel R. Reed, of the editorial staff, are to be republished in book form.

THE first number of "The Century Magazine" (November) will contain a sketch of the character and religious belief of George Eliot, by F. W. H. Myers; with the "authorized" portrait of the deceased lady.

"SYNNÖVE SOLBAKKEN," the initial volume of Professor Anderson's translation of Björnson's novels, is having a sale which assures the success of the series. The publishers have "Arne," the second of the series, nearly printed; and the MS. of "The Happy Boy" is ready for the press.

A LEADING English Christmas book this year will be a Birthday Book, by Her Royal Highness the Princess Beatrice, to be published by Smith, Elder & Co. It will be illustrated in water-colors, designed to represent, by their appropriate flowers, the twelve months of the year. The designs have been executed at Leipzig, in chromo-lithography. That for April has eighteen colors.

DR. ALEXANDER WINCHELL has nearly finished the revision of the proof-sheets of his new work, "Sparks from a Geologist's Hammer." It is a collection of essays, discussions and descriptions on such themes as may be conceived suited to occupy the attention of a geologist who tries to contemplate his science in the whole breadth of its relations—ranging from scenic descriptions to philosophic disquisitions on the data and presuppositions of

science in general; and will no doubt be one of the most interesting of the works of this able and popular writer.

MR. W. F. POOLE's paper on the "Construction of Library Buildings," read at a meeting of librarians in Washington last winter, has been issued in pamphlet form by the Government Printing Office, under direction of the Bureau of Education. The paper was widely copied and commented on by the daily press, following its reading in Washington, and was spoken of in detail in THE DIAL for March. In the pamphlet it is accompanied with several diagrams and illustrations, which add to its interest and value.

THE Society for Political Education has just issued its third economic tract in the series of 1880-81. It consists of a list of subjects and questions pertaining to political economy, constitutional law, the theory and administration of government, and current politics; and is intended to facilitate the efforts of students desirous of acquiring a knowledge of political and social science, and to supply an educational want which there has heretofore been no attempt to satisfy. We are glad to note the useful work performed by this society, and to call attention to the fact that M. L. Scudder, Jr., secretary for the Northwestern States, 40 Portland Block, Chicago, will furnish circulars or information.

MRS. ELLEN H. ROLLINS, who lately died at her home in Philadelphia, was perhaps best known to our readers as "E. H. Arr," the author of those two delightful books of country life, "New England Bygones," published last year, and "Old-Time Child-Life," which appeared about the beginning of the present; but her literary reputation reaches back to the time of her contributions to the "National Era" in the period of its great success under the charge of Dr. Bailey. During the war, while living in Washington, where her husband held the office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue, she wrote a series of letters to the Springfield "Republican" which attracted a good deal of attention, and afterward, during a trip in Europe, she was a valued correspondent of the Boston "Advertiser." Mrs. Rollins was born in Wakefield, N. H., April 30, 1831, and was a daughter of Josiah Hilton Hobbs, now long deceased, who was a prominent lawyer of that place. Through her father she was descended from one of the two Hiltons who settled New Hampshire in 1623, and some of her maternal ancestors—the Chapmans—came from England only about a dozen years later. So she certainly inherited the right to put "Old-Time" and "Bygones" upon the title-pages of her books of New England reminiscences. She was for some years in a school at Ipswich, Mass., where she formed many close friendships which lasted through her life. "Gail Hamilton" was one of her intimates there, and, writing to a friend since Mrs. Rollins' death, she says of her: "I never saw a more brilliant, piquant, intellectual, unexpected sort of woman. When you add to this that she was large-natured and generous, you have a rare combination." Her marriage with Edward A. Rollins, then a Dart-

mouth graduate of four years' standing, took place in 1855. In September last she marked her silver wedding by the gift of a communion service to the Congregational church of her native town.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

[The following list includes all New Books, American and English, received during the month of August by Messrs. JANSSEN, McCLURG & Co., Chicago.]

HISTORY, TRAVEL, AND BIOGRAPHY.

Voyages of the Elizabethan Seamen to America. Thirteen original narratives from the collection of Hakluyt. Selected and edited, with historical notices. By E. T. Payne, M.A. 12mo, pp. 396. London. \$3.00.

Experiences of Pioneer Life in the Early Settlements and Cities of the West. By James B. Walker. 12mo, pp. 310. \$1.00.

Young Folks' History of America. Edited by Ezekiah Butterworth. 12mo, pp. 533. Illustrated. \$1.50.

The Life and Work of Mary Carpenter. By J. Estlin Carpenter, M.A. 12mo, pp. 358. London. \$2.00.

Thomas Carlyle. By Moncure D. Conway. 12mo, pp. 253. \$1.00.

The Foreigner in China. By L. N. Wheeler, D.D. 12mo, pp. 268. \$1.25.

New York Illustrated. A Pictorial Delineation of street scenes, buildings, river views, etc. 8vo, Paper, 75 cents.

ESSAYS, BELLES-LETTRES, ETC.

The Works of Charles Dickens. *Edition de Luxe.* With upwards of 700 illustrations by Cruikshank, Seymour, "Phiz" (H. K. Browne), Catemole, MacIise, R.A., Sir Edward Landseer, R.A., John Leech, F. Barnard, and others, printed on real China paper. The edition is strictly limited to 1,000 copies, each copy being numbered. To be completed in thirty vols. Vols. nine and ten just received from London. Subscriptions received by Jansen, McClurg & Co.

Shakespeare. *Edition de Luxe.* To be completed in fifteen volumes, Imperial 8vo. Uniform with the *Edition de Luxe* of Charles Dickens. The illustrations, eight hundred in number, by Sir John Gilbert, R.A., are printed from the original wood blocks on real China paper. The edition is limited to 1,000 copies, numbered. Vols. I, II, III and IV are now ready. Subscriptions received by Jansen, McClurg & Co.

The French Language. Self-Taught. A manual of French idiomatic phraseology. By Alfred Sardon. 12mo, half bound. \$2.50.

A Selection from the Letters of Madame de Remusat. 1804-1814. Edited by her grandson, Paul de Remusat, Senator. *Portrait.* 12mo. \$1.25.

"After the superheated and unnatural pictures of French life found, for example, in some novel of the International series, such sketches as these are like a trip to the seashore or the mountains."—*The Independent.*

Scientific Culture, and other essays. By Josiah P. Cooke. 16mo, pp. 159. \$1.00.

The Art of Speech. Vol. II.—Studies in Eloquence and Logic. By L. T. Townsend, D.D. 18mo. 60 cts.

Surf. A Summer Pilgrimage. By Saul Wright. 16mo, pp. 218. \$1.00.

Amenities of Home. "Appleton's Home Books." 12mo, pp. 134. 60 cts.

"The chapters are brief and the topics well chosen; the whole sensible and wholesome."—*The Independent.*

Domestic Folk Lore. By Rev. T. F. T. Dyer, M.A. 18mo, pp. 184. Paper, 25 cents. Cloth, 50 cents.

Daily Bread. A birthday text-book with diary for memoranda. Compiled and edited by E. M. H. 32mo. 50 cents.

ART AND ANTIQUITIES.

The Architecture, Decoration and Furniture of Robert and James Adam. Selected from "Works in Architecture," published 1778-1793, and photo-lithographed from the originals. Folio. London. \$10.00.

A Dictionary of Roman and Greek Antiquities. With nearly 2,000 engravings on wood from ancient originals. By Anthony Rich, B.A. Third edition, revised and improved. 12mo, pp. 756. \$3.00.

SCIENTIFIC, ETC.

Text-Book of Systematic Mineralogy. By Hilary Bauerman, F.G.S., 16mo, pp. 367. \$2.00.

Illusions. A psychological study. By James Sully. *International Scientific Series.* 12mo. \$1.50.

New England Bird Life. A manual of New England Ornithology. Revised and edited from the manuscript of Winfrid A. Stearns by Dr. Elliott Coues, U.S.A. 12mo, pp. 320. \$2.50.

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The Young Folks' Astronomy. By John D. Champlin, Jr. 16mo, pp. 236. 60 cents.

FICTION.

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Once a Year; or, The Doctors' Puzzle. By E. B. S. 12mo, pp. 244. \$1.00.

Paul Hart; or, The Love of His Life. By Uncle Luke. 16mo, pp. 420. Paper, 75 cents.

Mildred's Cadet; or, Hearts and Bell-Buttons. By Alice K. Hamilton. 16mo, pp. 302. Paper, 75 cents. Cloth, \$1.00.

Exiles. By Victor Tisset and Constant Amaro. 16mo, pp. 358. Paper, 75 cents. Cloth, \$1.00.

NEW NOS. IN FRANKLIN SQUARE LIBRARY.

The Neptune Vase. By Virginia W. Johnston. 20 cents.

Sydney. By Georgiana W. Craik. 15 cents.

Letters of Madame de Remusat. 20 cents.

The Black Speck. By F. W. Robinson. 10 cents.

JUVENILE.

Wood Magic; A fable. By Richard Jefferies. 12mo, pp. 263. \$1.50.

"Will charm the most languishing."—*Standard, London.*

Hazelnut and her Brothers. By Ellen Hallé. Illustrated. 4to. Boards, \$1.25. Cloth, \$1.75.

Bessie Bradford's Secret. By Joanna H. Matthews. Boards, \$1.25. Cloth, \$1.75.

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The Revised New Testament. With readings and renderings preferred by the American Committee of Revision incorporated into the text. By R. D. Hitchcock, D.D. 16mo. \$1.00.

The History of Christianity. The life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth; the adventures of Paul and the Apostles, etc. By J. S. C. Abbott. 12mo, pp. 504. \$2.00.

The Chief End of Revelation. By Alex. B. Bruce, D.D. 12mo, pp. 278. \$1.00.

MEDICAL.

Treatment of Varicocele by Excision of Redundant Scrotum. Illustrated by new instruments and an account of fifteen successful cases. By M. H. Henry, M.A., M.D. 12mo, pp. 27. 50 cents.

A New Form of Nervous Disease. Together with an essay on Erythroxylon Coca. By W. S. Searle, A.M., M.D. 12mo, pp. 128. \$1.00.

[Any book in this list will be sent by mail, post-paid, on receipt of price, by JANSSEN, McCLURG & Co., Chicago.]

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HAVE JUST PUBLISHED.

Illusions:

A Psychological Study. By JAMES SULLY, author of "Sensation and Intuition," etc. (International Scientific Series.) 12mo, cloth. Price \$1.50.

This volume takes a wide survey of the field of error, embracing in its view not only the illusions commonly regarded as of the nature of mental aberrations or hallucinations, but also other illusions arising from that capacity for error which belongs essentially to rational human nature. The author has endeavored to keep to a strictly scientific treatment—that is to say, the description and classification of acknowledged errors, and the exposition of them by a reference to their psychical and physical conditions.

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